

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BAR-BENCH-MEDIA CONFERENCE

A meeting of the Bar-Bench-Media Conference was held on Wednesday, March 12, 2003 at 12:30 p.m. The members of the Conference participating were:

Members from the Electronic News Media

Chris Carl

Marie Krips

Members of the Print News Media

Rita Farrell

Melissa Sepos

John Taylor

Members from the Bench

President Judge Henry duPont Ridgely

Judge John K. Welch

Members from the Bar

Eugene H. Bayard, Esquire (by telephone)

Don C. Brown, Esquire

David G. Culley, Esquire

Kathleen Jennings-Hostetter, Esquire

Richard D. Kirk, Esquire

The first agenda item was the approval of the draft minutes from the December 4, 2002 and February 5, 2003 meetings of the Conference. Upon motion which was duly seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved. Melissa K. Sepos from Delaware Law Weekly was introduced as a new Conference member replacing John Manser. Melissa was welcomed by the Conference members.

The new Conference officers were introduced as the next agenda item. Chris Carl is the Chair. Kathy Jennings-Hostetter is the Vice Chair. John Taylor is the Secretary. Steve Taylor is the Assistant Secretary. On behalf of the Conference, Chris Carl thanked President Judge Ridgely for his leadership in revitalizing the Conference.

Under Old Business, Chris Carl will send a letter to the Supreme Court with the Conference's recommendation that the Court approved the Proposed Administrative Directive/Rule for Expanded Media Coverage of the Trial Courts. Steve Taylor will draft the letter.

The Bar-Bench-Media Dinner with Panel Discussion was a success by all accounts. The dinner was largely attended by lawyers who received ethics credit. The admission price did not cover expenses this year. This can be rectified by increasing the admission price in the future. The Conference decided it would be desirable to hold a second dinner in 2003. A topic for the discussion panel will need to be selected. President Judge Ridgely, John Taylor, Rita Farrell and Dick Kirk volunteered to serve on a committee to plan the 2003 dinner.

President Judge Ridgely reported that he was awaiting entries for the 2003 Essay Contest. The essays are due by April 1.

Under new business, the issues of closed court hearings and the process for

closing a hearing were briefly discussed. The issues will be place on the Conference's next agenda.

The final agenda item was the scheduling of the next Conference meeting. The Conference members present decided to meet on Wednesday, June 18, 2003 at 12:30 p.m. in the Supreme Court Large Conference Room in Wilmington. Lunch will be provided.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

June 2, 2003